

## OH FOR A LOOPHOLE

Kruse Falls to Appear before the Council,

BUT HE HIRES AN ATTORNEY

The Council Will Meet in Committee of the Whole Wednesday Evening to Investigate the Charges.

W. T. Powers submitted a communication relative to a market place which he proposes to build in the center of the river, beginning at the West Bridge street bridge and extending to Lyon street. Mr. Powers said: "An objection to the market place I have a proposition which I desire to submit to your honorable body. I propose that the city build an open bridge, with a floor construction similar to the approach to the Pearl street bridge, over the West side canal, supported on one side by a suitable abutment and on the other side by the dock line on the west side of the river, from Lyon street to Bridge street, and on the east side on a line or row of street corners filled with concrete, erected on the river bed, each bridge to be guarded on either side by a suitable iron railing. The entrance to this will be at Bridge street on the north and by way of a bridge to be built at Lyon street on the south."

The communication further says that in estimate has been received, and that the aggregate cost will not exceed \$50,000. Providing that the above scheme is carried out according to the specifications, Mr. Powers says that he will lead to the city, free of charge, the title to the ground so covered. Mr. Powers says he will be pleased to meet the committee having the matter in charge. The communication was referred to the special market committee.

The comptroller reported claims which were ordered paid amounting to \$1,131.32.

The commissioners for Greenwood and Oakhill cemeteries asked the council to order the board of public works to furnish both cemeteries with water free of charge. There was some debate over the matter, but it was finally referred to the board of public works.

Sixteen applications for milk licenses were reported upon favorably and ordered issued to the applicants.

The committee on streets reported adversely to the grading and graveling of Gilbert street on the five year plan, because there is not sufficient money in the fund to do the work.

Disposed Paying Masters.

The committee on claims and accounts to whom was referred the claim of Andrew Kolenbrander, who claims to have driven into a hole at the corner of East Leonard and Canal streets, receiving such injuries that he considered himself entitled to damages, reported and recommended that the matter be referred to the city attorney for his opinion. The committee to whom was referred the appeal of West Bridge street property owners, on the paving bill, reported in favor of the same, and explained that in a portion of the street, curb stones were already in, but that the board of equalization assessed the adjoining property on the same basis as if curbs had been put in new. Report adopted. Alderman Frost presented a lease between the city and the Grand Rapids Glue company, for the new pound. The mayor was ordered to execute the same. Alderman Cooper presented a resolution asking that an estimate be made for the paving of South Ottawa street with cobble blocks on concrete foundation with cobblestone gutters. There was considerable opposition to the cobblestone portion and Alderman Mills made a motion to have it stricken out, which was lost. The explanation was made that the property owners wanted the estimate so that an argument could be made for another improvement and the figures used to show the comparative cost. The resolution was adopted.

Alderman Turner moved that the matter of investigation of the charges preferred against Poor Director Kruse be taken up.

Method of Procedure.

Mayor Uhl said that he did not understand what the council proposed to do, or how it was intended to proceed to accomplish the removal of Mr. Kruse, if that was the intention, and he supposed it was. Alderman Cooper said that the proper way to proceed was to have some citizens prefer the charges and then let the council inform them. The prosecuting attorney could make the proper investigation and then make the necessary recommendations to the council. Alderman Turner said that Alderman Sprout had been preferring charges at nearly every meeting and that if he was honest he would produce his witnesses.

Mayor Uhl said he was of the opinion that the council had no right to carry on an investigation of the kind proposed. That the charter did not empower any member to administer an oath.

Alderman Sprout then presented a check which had been received from Mrs. Dudley, of the U. S. A. home, of \$45.00, which she had given Poor Director Kruse. The amount was overpaid the sum by the city. The receipt given by Mr. Kruse to the U. S. A. home was also produced.

Alderman Turner moved that Mr. Kruse be asked to come before the council and make answer. Alderman Cooper took the check and the receipt and said that Alderman Sprout had preferred charges and to communicate same charges to the council. He presented his evidence and had witnesses present to prove what he had said. Some of the witnesses had said, and others had indicated, that the move against Kruse was of a political nature. If that was true, and the council would not order an investigation, he felt confident that the republicans would feel satisfied if the democrats were.

Sydney Westcott appeared before the council on behalf of Mr. Kruse, and said that he was of the opinion that the council had no right in the premises, but that he was willing to stand a thorough investigation. What he wanted was the judgment of specific charges and hoped that a committee would be appointed to ascertain what the malfeasance was. Where that was done Kruse would put in his defense.

Kruse's Old Game.

Alderman Sprout said that had been the tactics pursued all along. Kruse wanted to know just what money he was short so that he could stop up and buy.

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Pleanty of Timber Left.

The principal industry is the handling of hard and soft lumber and salt. This cry about all the timber in the north woods being consumed is wrong, entirely so. I recently had occasion to prepare a statement to be submitted to the congressional committee on rivers and harbors and what I found was a surprise, not only to me, but to everyone. There is standing timber enough tributary to Manistee to keep the mills there running, at the same rate they have been running, for the next twenty-five years. Ten years ago agitation began upon this subject and all kinds of steps were taken to prevent the razing of the forests, but, apparently, they are not seriously impaired. Of all the salt consumed in the United States last year Manistee furnished one-sixth. There were used 6,000,000 barrels. Our town marketed 1,100,000 barrels. Michigan as a whole contributed 4,000,000 barrels, or two-thirds of the whole amount consumed. There was some produced outside of this, but those figures represent what was handled by the Michigan Salt association. There was some salt while ago about this organization going to pieces, but a reorganization was perfected on the old basis, new officers were elected and everything is progressing favorably. The price per barrel last year netted the manufacturers 62 cents, a price which was considered fair. As fast as the pine is cut, the land, wherever there is a day sub-soil, is taken up and cleared. Some of the finest farms in the state are to be found in the neighborhood of Manistee. The principal crops are wheat, oats and potatoes. The season is most too short for corn, though considerable is raised for fodder purposes. Manistee is not provided with an electric street car system as yet, but it is one of the best lighted cities in the state. A franchise was given to a street car company, a year or so ago, but it was forfeited and we are glad of it, because the company wanted the street and came near getting it. The next time a right of way is given it will be more favorable to the city.

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